

Medicare Rx Update: November 6, 2006

Join us for the Pharmacy Open Door Forum tomorrow...

CMS will be hosting its pharmacy open door forum on Tuesday, November 7 at 2 PM EST. You may call dial 1-800-837-1935 and the conference ID is 7361072. Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880; for Internet Relay services click here: <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html> An encore presentation can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering 7361072, beginning 2 hours after the call has ended. The recording will expire after 3 business days.

Re-assignment letters are in the mail this week...

CMS is reaching out to beneficiaries to ensure a smooth transition from 2006 to 2007. Medicare will be notifying about 247,000 beneficiaries whose Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) premium would increase by more than \$2 above the regional low-income premium subsidy amount to inform them of their options for 2007. If Medicare enrolled these beneficiaries in their plan in 2006, they will be randomly re-assigned into a new PDP for 2007 unless they elect to stay in their current plan and pay a higher monthly premium fee or switch to a different PDP. All of these beneficiaries will continue to have their Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

The notifications to the beneficiaries will be on **blue** paper. Dual eligibles will continue to be able to switch plans anytime in 2007.

Please see this CMS web page (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/limitedincomeandresources/>) for information on the numbers of beneficiaries who no longer qualify for the LIS (by state, county and zip code), a copy of the re-assignment notice that will be mailed to CMS beneficiaries, a Q&A document about re-assignment, a partner tip sheet about re-assignment, and a background document that includes key dates can be found in the "Downloads" section at the bottom of this.

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